eternity COMICS
$1.80
$2.60 Canada

EX-MUTANTS™

#1

CAN YOU TRANSUBSTANTIATE THAT?

Greetings. Your Uncle Eternity requests that you present yourself, the second Friday of each month, to your favorite comics shop. There you will enjoy the experience of some surprisingly good comic books. They will be called *Eternity Comics*.

The comic book you hold in your hands is the first in a full line of black-and-white, and full-color, comics we'll be publishing in the next few months. We think the line-up will delight you.

In alphabetical order, here's a list of series currently in production, along with projected on-sale dates:

EARTHLORE: THE LEGEND OF BEK LARSON™ — B&W, $1.80, bi-monthly. Written by Chris Henderson and Peter Palmer; illustrated by Russ Steffens. It's not a story of elves or unicorns or singing dragons; this is, instead, a gutsy saga of an Earth long past, in which future political figure Bek Larson is trapped in the past, surrounded by hostile natives who have the colonial warlords on the run. Look for Gargor, a changeling; an elder troll woman; a warrior poet; a supposed Prince; a powerful sorceress; and those from the future who wish Bek Larson dead. *On sale in September*.

EARTHLORE: REIGN OF THE DRAGONLORD ™ — B&W, $1.80, bi-monthly. Written by Chris Henderson and Peter Palmer; illustrated by Kevin B. Farrell and Jim Fletcher. In the same time as **BEK LARSON**, another saga is brewing, with different characters. This series rotates on a bi-monthly schedule with **BEK LARSON,** leading to an eventual confrontation which will tie together both storylines. *On sale in October*.

EX-MUTANTS™ — B&W, $1.80, monthly. Written by David Lawrence; illustrated by Ronald Lim and Mike Witherby. In a crisis-torn world after a supposed atomic war, hideously mutated creatures roam the radioactive lands. A mutated scientist, realizing what mockeries of humanity they have become, experiments on five of these creatures – turning them into five perfect human specimens: four female, one male, to repopulate the race across the planet. But, since they are the only humans in a world of mutants, they are hated...they become hunted! And, in order to survive, they must learn the ancient arts of the Samurai.... *On sale in August*.

MITES™ – B&W, $1.80, bi-monthly. Written by John Nubbin and Sparky; illustrated by Conti and Timothy Dzon. **MITES** is based on the "cute" 3-heads-high satirical versions of popular comics characters Conti has been offering at conventions on the east coast. Issue **#1**, "Dark Madonna," features the X-MITES. Issue **#2** will offer DARKMIGHT. Issue **#3** presents THE WATCHMITE. And **#4**, most likely, is the special 2-D issue, complete with on-the-back instructions on how to create your own 2-D glasses! It's witty, it's caustic, it's nasty...you'll love it! *On sale in October*.

NINJA™ — B&W, monthly, $1.80. Written by Chris Henderson and Peter Palmer; illustrated by Kevin Farrell and crew. Chinese/American Catherine Steward Monroe was raised from birth to have complete control over her mind and body. Her Cantonese grandfather thought it quite natural. Her police captain father complemented such skills with detective procedures and the use of firearms. Years later, she joins the CIA's clandestine tactics group – *The Suiciders*. She didn't realize the job of an undercover agent, a job she grows to hate, would surely be the death of her....*On Sale in October*.

NINJA FUNNIES™ — B&W, $1.40, 20 pages. Naw, you wouldn't believe us if we told you! So, check it out yourself! We're distributing it *in September*.

PHIGMENTS™ — B&W super-team, $1.80, bi-monthly. Written by Alan Rowlands; illustrated by Evan Dorkin and Timothy Dzon. Marvel and DC writer Alan Rowlands has created a different kind of "team book." It deals with dreams and fantasies and fears that swell within us, as well as the super-heroics that protect our weak and fragile existence. We expect this one to be a fan favorite "fast sell-out!" *On Sale In October*.

THE WAYFARERS™ — Full-color, super-team, $1.80, bi-monthly. Written by Richard Levy; illustrated by Craig Brasfield. Craig, best known for his work on Marvel's *Alpha Flight* and short features in *Nexus* and *Badger*, has teamed with long-time compatriot Richard Levy to create a fascinating full-color team book about a super-group that finds itself on an alien world. It's quite unlike any other team book out there, and it looks great! **WAYFARERS** will splash onto the comic book scene *in October*.

But's that's *not* all!

We've a heaping handful of other, full-color, projects brewing — and we'll announce them in all their glory in the weeks ahead.

That's it for the moment. Be sure to write to us; we want to know what you think. Check out the text page for the lettercol address.

See you next month in **EX-MUTANTS #2,** where we bring you "Strange Daze, Wild Knights."

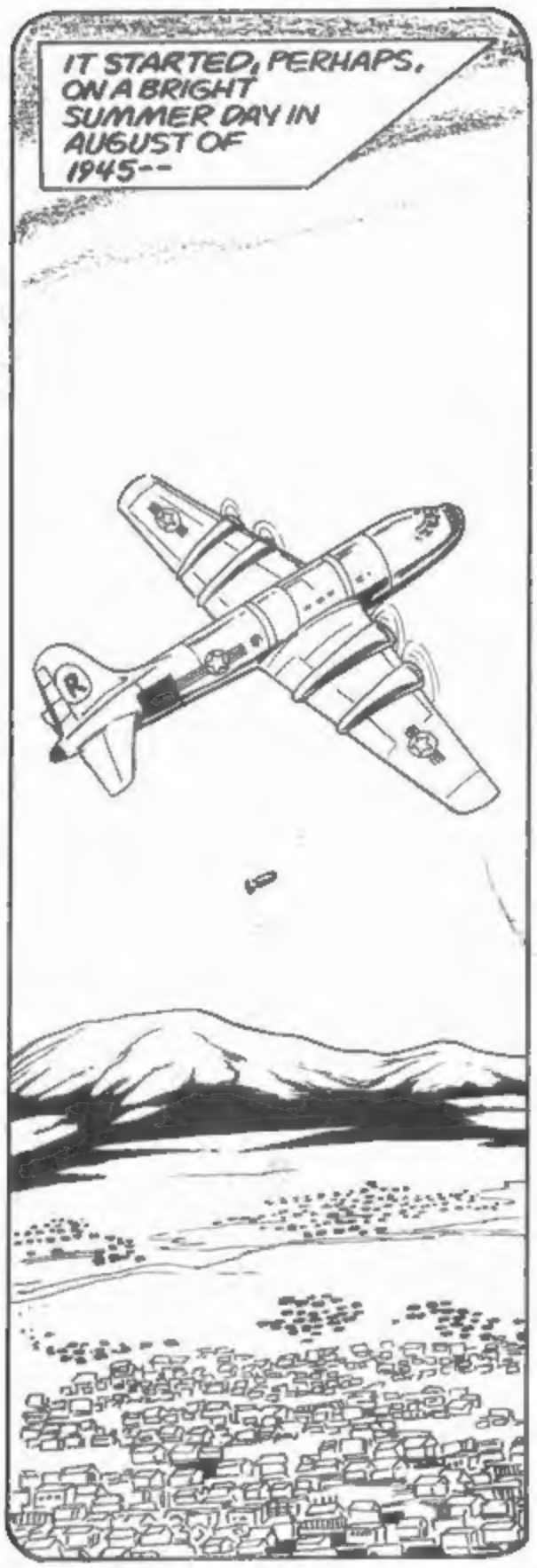
Yours through Eternity,

Kevin Myers
Publisher

EX-MUTANTS™ Vol. 1, No. 1, 1986 Issue. Published monthly by ETERNITY COMICS. Office of Publication: 2888 Bluff Street, Suite 336, Boulder, CO 80301. (303) 449-8896, ext. 336. Kevin Myers, Publisher. Campiti & Associates and TriCorp Enterprises, Inc., consultants. EX-MUTANTS is a Trademark of TriCorp Enterprises, Inc. Story © 1986 David Lawrence. Art © 1986 Ronald Lim and Michael Witherby. All rights reserved. Cover price $1.80 in the U.S. and $2.60 in Canada. *Cover color by Steve Oliff*. Everything's fictitious except the price. **Produced courtesy of Campiti & Associates/TriCorp Enterprises, Inc.** Printed in Canada.

EX-MUTANTS
A BREED APART
SHE CANNOT HELP BUT DREAM.
HER NAME IS LORELEI AND, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS BORN AFTER THE CRISIS, SHE FEELS SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE--
--JUST LIKE HER MOTHER--
--BEFORE HER MOTHER SAW THE FLASH FILL THE SKY, THE FLAME SEAR THE SOIL, AND FELT THE DARK CHILL THE BONES.
WHEN THE RADIOACTIVE NIGHT FINALLY LIFTED, MOST HAD DIED.
THOSE THAT SURVIVED HAD CHANGED. THE CHILDREN THEY BORE WERE MUTANTS. LIKE LORELEI.
DAVID LAWRENCE & ANTHONY PEREIRA
WRITERS
RONALD LIM & MIKE WITHERBY
ARTISTS
BOB PINAHA
LETTERER
WILLIAM DAVIDSON
EDITOR
1

SOME, MUCH LIKE LORELEI, REFUSE TO LET THE DREAM OF HUMANITY DIE.
DR. EMMANUEL CUGAT:
COME, CHILD.
YOU WILL BE A BREED APART FROM THE OTHERS.
WHAT A MOCKERY OF HUMANITY HAVE WE BECOME!
BUT NESTLED WITHIN YOU ARE GENES THAT BEG FOR RELEASE. WHAT ONCE WERE DOMINANT ARE NOW RECESSIVE.
WE MUST RESTORE HUMANITY TO THE FACE OF THIS PLANET... IF WE CAN...
"WE CAN ONLY TRY."
2


IT STARTED, PERHAPS, ON A BRIGHT SUMMER DAY IN AUGUST OF 1945--

--WHEN ONE WAR ENDED, AND ANOTHER WAR SUDDENLY BEGAN.

ALL THE PROPER NOISES WERE MADE. THE EULOGIES FOR THE DEAD, PROMISES IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

FOR A LONG TIME IT DIDN'T, AND LIFE WENT ON, AS USUAL--
--ON A PLANET MANKIND NOW COULD DESTROY.
THE MONS HOUSE

BUT ONE DAY IT DID HAPPEN. SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE--
--AND LET'S FACE IT, IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHO--
--ORDERED THE WEAPONS USED.
SO EVERYONE--
--USED THEIRS, AS WELL!
--EVERYWHERE--
BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY--
AND THAT WAS THE END OF THEIR STORY, THE WAY SURVIVORS HEARD AND BELIEVED IT.
--WHEN, TO SOME, A SIMPLISTIC "TRUTH" MATTERED.

NOW THE SUN BURNS HOTTER THAN IT DID BEFORE MOST OF THE OZONE IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE WAS DESTROYED.

WIND BLOWS HARDER AND FASTER IN THE THINNER ATMOSPHERE.

RAINS FALL FAR TOO RARELY FOR ANYTHING TO GROW IN LAND MOST UNSUITABLE FOR FARMING.

PLANET EARTH BARELY SURVIVED.

...MANKIND DIDN'T.

BUT HERE, AMONG RUINS WHERE ONCE STOOD NEW YORK CITY, IN A LAND THAT WAS AMERICA--

--SOMETHING ELSE DID.

GOOD LORD! I THINK I'VE FOUND IT!

HEY, LOOK-- CRAZY OLD DOC CUGAT--HE'S GOT SOMETHIN'!

NOT FOR LONG, HE HASN'T!!

AT LAST! BUT I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--

THWACK!

IT'S TOO LATE.
OKAY DOC, WE'LL TAKE THAT NOW!
MITCHELL, YOU MORON! IT'S OF NO USE TO YOU!

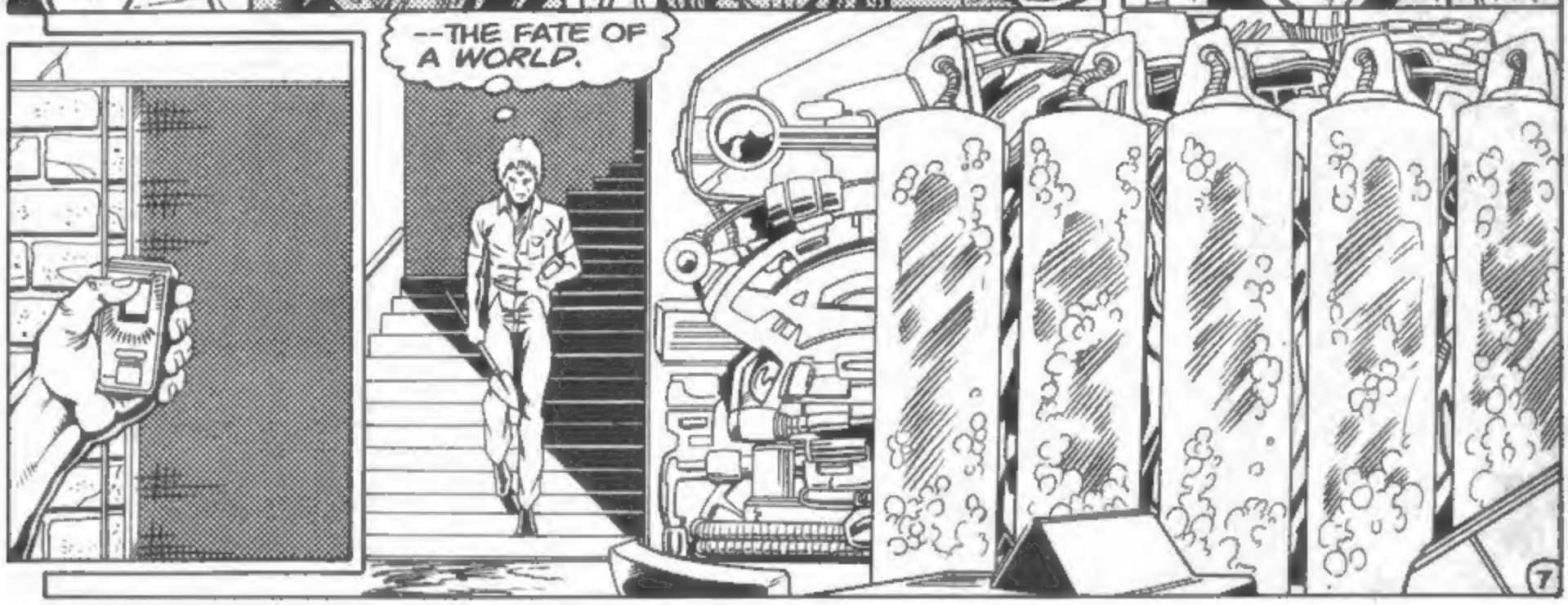
WE'LL DECIDE ABOUT THAT!

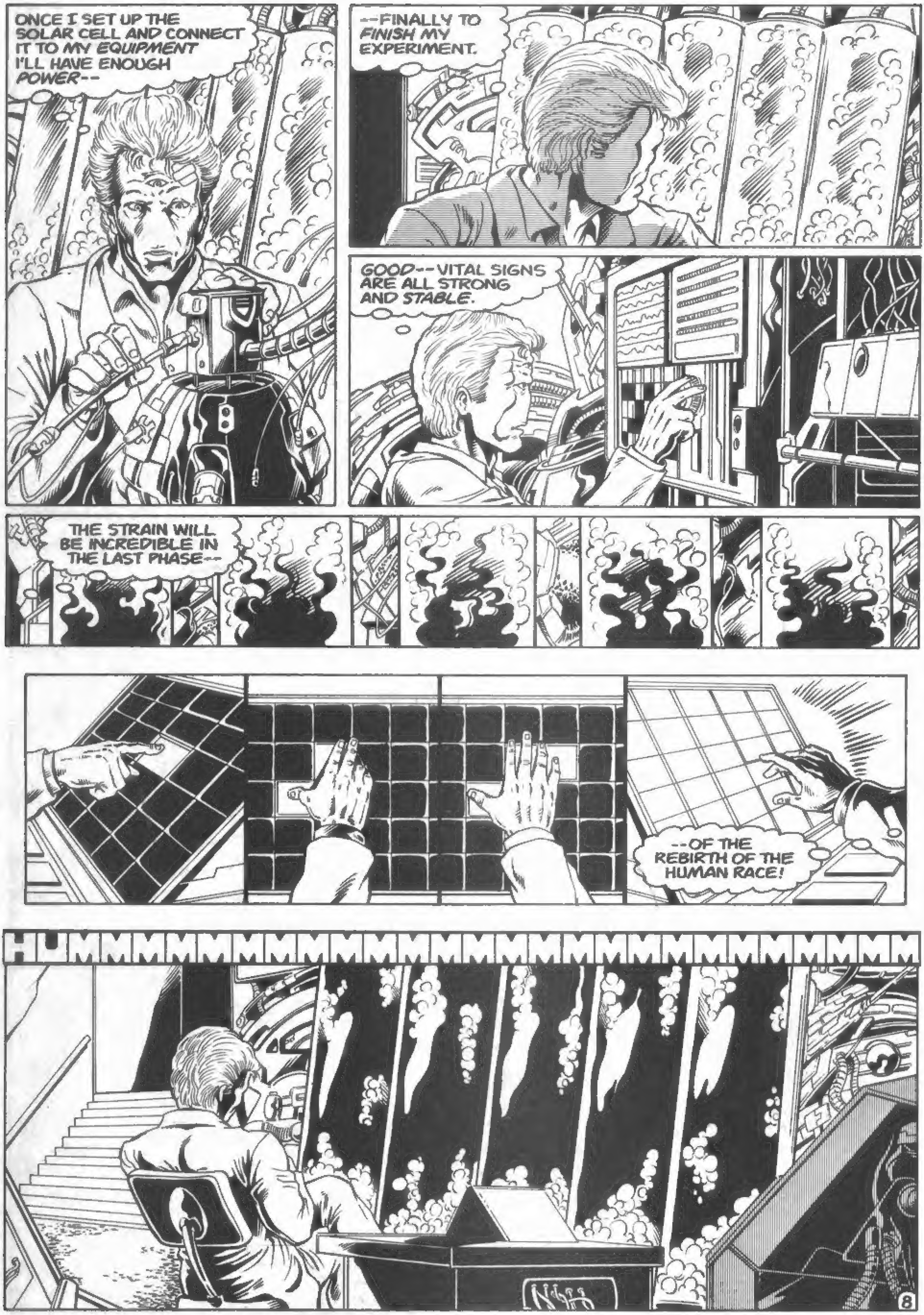
UH...WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A COMPACT SOLAR BATTERY, YOU FOOLS. IT CAN--

AAH... IF YA CAN'T EAT IT OR SLEEP WITH IT, WHAT GOOD IS IT?
LOOK! IT'S DOUGLAS! I'LL BET HE'S FOUND SOME FOOD!

TO YOU, MITCHELL, IT'S WORTHLESS.
BUT FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE STILL A LITTLE CIVILIZED--

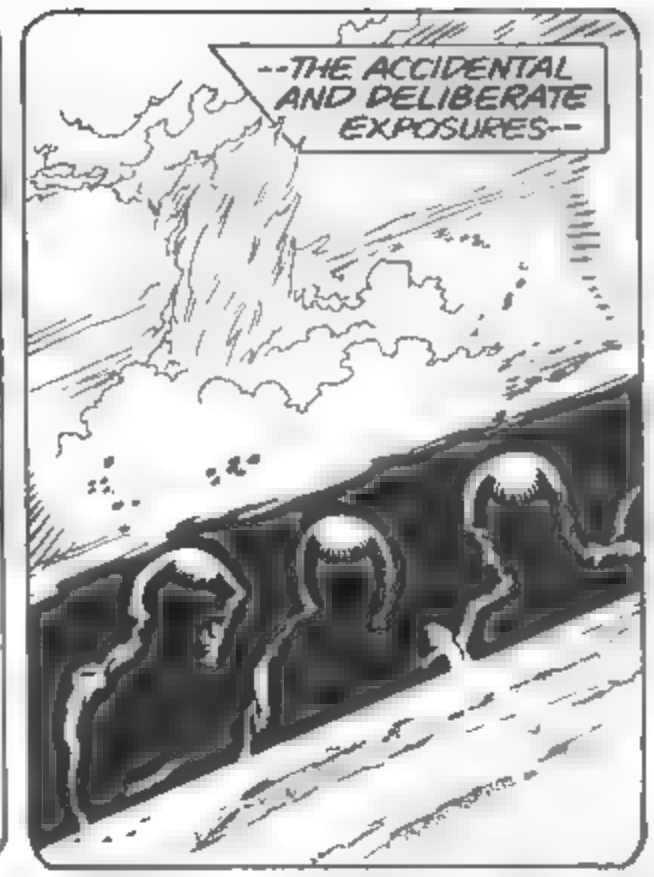
--IT COULD CHANGE--


--THE FATE OF A WORLD.


ONCE I SET UP THE SOLAR CELL AND CONNECT IT TO MY EQUIPMENT I'LL HAVE ENOUGH POWER--
--FINALLY TO FINISH MY EXPERIMENT.
GOOD--VITAL SIGNS ARE ALL STRONG AND STABLE.
THE STRAIN WILL BE INCREDIBLE IN THE LAST PHASE--
--OF THE REBIRTH OF THE HUMAN RACE!
HUMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
8

EMMANUEL CUGAT WORKS FEVERISHLY INTO THE NIGHT--

--REMEMBERING THE STORIES HIS FATHER TOLD HIM. THE FIRST ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS--


--THE ACCIDENTAL AND DELIBERATE EXPOSURES--

--THE CHANGES. FIRST DISEASE, THEN OTHER, SUBTLER DIFFERENCES.

FINALLY, WAR, WHEN EVERYTHING SHOULD HAVE DIED, AND EVERYTHING HUMAN DID.

HE REMEMBERS THE SURVIVORS, PARTLY IMMUNE TO THE RADIATION--
--BECAUSE, HE REASONED, OF A TOLERANCE THROUGH PREVIOUS SLIGHT EXPOSURES--
--BUT CHANGED FOREVER.

BUT CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, NOT ONCE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT--
--NOT EVEN AS HE FALLS INTO AN EXHAUSTED, FITFUL SLEEP NEAR DAWN, DOES HE PAUSE TO WONDER--

--IF THE HUMAN RACE DESERVES TO BE REBORN.

I'VE DONE IT!!!

HERE WE ARE, DOC.

NEW AND IMPROVED, THANKS TO YOU.

SIGH. I'LL SAY HE IS.

EASY, GIRL.

WE SHOULD ALL TAKE IT EASY.

--TILL WE FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

ERIN.

BELUSHI.

VIKKI.

ANGELA.

LORELEI.

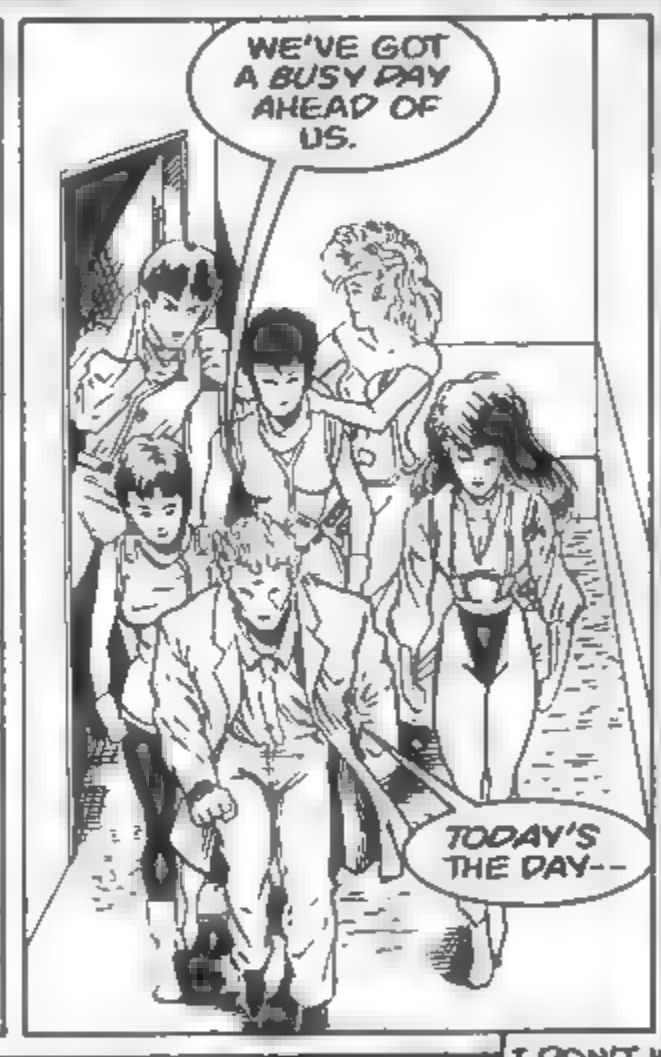
"WHAT HAPPENS NEXT" TAKES WEEKS.
WEEKS OF TESTING, DURING WHICH DR. CUGAT MAKES SURE THAT THE CAREFUL ALTERATIONS MADE ON HIS YOUNG CHARGES HAVE WORKED.
EXIT
WEEKS OF TRAINING, PREPARING FOR A HOSTILE WORLD, LEARNING SKILLS THEY WILL NEED TO SURVIVE--
--AND, PERHAPS, TO DO MORE THAN SURVIVE.
BUT IT'S NOT ALL WORK. THERE ARE WEEKS OF LAUGHTER, WEEKS OF GROWTH--
--AMONG A DOCTOR AND HIS PATIENTS--
--WEEKS WHEN THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG A SCIENTIST AND HIS EXPERIMENTS--

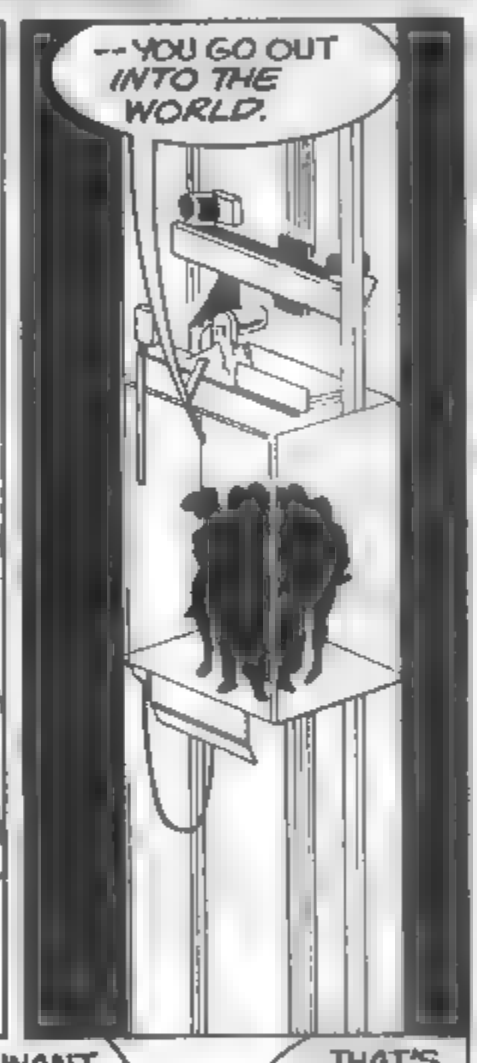
--BECOME SOMETHING MUCH MORE.

C'MON, KIDS, TIME TO GET UP!

COME BACK IN ABOUT AN HOUR.
MMMMP

MMMM... WHY SO EARLY?


WE'VE GOT A BUSY DAY AHEAD OF US.
TODAY'S THE DAY--


--YOU GO OUT INTO THE WORLD.

OUT THERE?! BUT I JUST DID MY NAILS!
I DON'T WANT TO GO! THERE'S NOTHING THERE!!
NO BOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT HERE--

NO MOVIES, OR...
SON...

I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO, EITHER. YOU'VE BEEN LIKE A FAMILY TO ME.
THAT'S SOMETHING I HAVEN'T HAD...
. FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

BUT REMEMBER, EVEN AS YOU WENT THROUGH THE MOST POWERFUL OF GENETIC TREATMENTS, REBUILDING YOU WAS JUST THE FIRST STEP TOWARD REBUILDING OUR ENTIRE *WORLD!*

THEN WE *FIGHT* OVER THE *SCRAPS* WE FIND. I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT SEEING YOU...

SINCE THE CRISIS, WE'VE BEEN SATISFIED WITH SCAVENGING THROUGH RUINS, RATHER THAN WORKING TO REBUILD.

...*MIGHT* GIVE OUR PEOPLE THE *INSPIRATION* TO REBUILD ALL THAT *USED* TO BE

IT WON'T BE EASY, IT WILL CERTAINLY BE *DANGEROUS.*

THAT'S THE REASON FOR YOUR MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING AND WEAPONS-- AND TO HELP YOU IN YOUR TRAVELS, I'VE ALSO PREPARED--

--*THIS!* A GENUINE PRE-HOLOCAUST AUTO-MOBILE, EQUIPPED WITH TWO WAY RADIO FOR US TO MAINTAIN CONTACT--

--AND SEVERAL *OTHER* INTERESTING "EXTRAS", AS WELL.

AND NOW, I THINK IT'S TIME YOU MAKE YOUR *DEBUT!*

LOOK! UP IN THE *SKY!*

SOMETHING'S GOING ON AT CUGAT'S PLACE!

WHAT'S THAT CRAZY OLD COOT UP TO *NOW?!*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU ALL HERE.

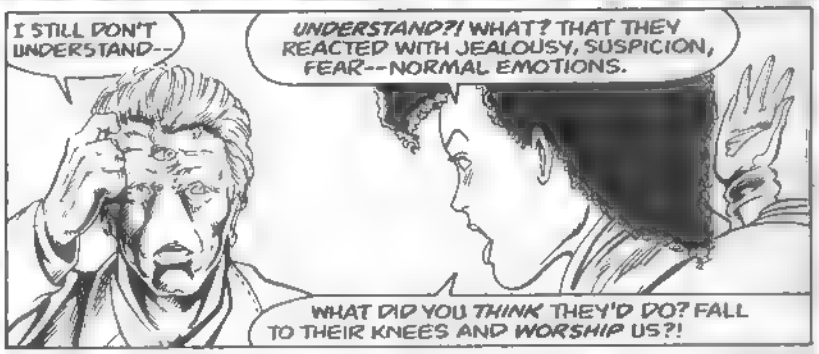
CUT THE *CRAP,* CUGAT! WHAT'S YOUR GAME NOW?

NO GAME, FRIEND! I'VE BROUGHT YOU ALL HERE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT--
--THE REBIRTH OF THE HUMAN RACE!!
HUMANS!!!
I TAKE IT THIS ISN'T QUITE WHAT YOU EXPECTED?
GET THEM!!!
WELL, I WAS HOPING FOR A WARMER RECEPTION!
WARMER? NO THANKS! THIS RECEPTION IS ALREADY RED HOT!
CRAK
LORELEI--!!

WATCH OUT!!
KTAC!
THANKS, ERIN!
SURE BUT YOU WOULDN'T NEED MY HELP--
--IF YOU SPENT LESS TIME TALKING AND MORE TIME WATCHING YOUR BACK.
UH... RIGHT.
DAMMIT! WHY ARE THEY ALL SO HARD ON ME?!
MAYBE THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO--
WHAK
OH NO!!
VIKKI!!
WHAT'S WRONG?!

OH ANGELA-- I BROKE A NAIL!
THE HORROR.
AT FIRST, THE MUTANTS SEEM TO HAVE AN EDGE BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPERIOR NUMBERS.
BUT SLOWLY, SUPERIOR SKILL BEGINS TO FORCE THEM BACK--

--UNTIL:
HOO-HAK!! LOOK AT THEM RUN!!
IT'S ONLY A TEMPORARY VICTORY. THEY'LL BE BACK--
--AND NEXT TIME THEY'LL BE READY!


I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND--
UNDERSTAND?! WHAT? THAT THEY REACTED WITH JEALOUSY, SUSPICION, FEAR--NORMAL EMOTIONS.
WHAT DID YOU THINK THEY'D DO? FALL TO THEIR KNEES AND WORSHIP US?!

I JUST WANTED TO SHOW THEM THAT EVEN TODAY--
--LIFE HAS POSSIBILITIES.

WE'LL TELL GREAT FRED--HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO HATE THEM--

BUT--GODS!! THEY LOOKED JUST LIKE GODS!
COMICS
YEAH! WAIT TILL FRED HEARS.
HE'LL US WHAT TO DO!
YOU'D BEST LEAVE BEFORE THEY RETURN.
BUT DOC-- WHAT ABOUT YOU.
I'LL BE FINE HERE--
SLAM
MY BUNKER IS ALMOST INVULNERABLE. MY SECRET ENTRANCES WILL ONLY OPERATE FOR ME.
THOSE THINGS MAY RULE THE SURFACE, BUT THE TUNNELS BENEATH IT ARE MINE!
WE SHOULD STAY WITH YOU.
NO. IT IS NOT YOUR PLACE TO HIDE IN THE DARKNESS--
GARAGE
--YOU HAVE A WORLD TO RECLAIM! GOOD-BYE, MY CHILDREN--
GOOD-BYE...
...MY DAUGHTERS AND SON.
18

A HUNDRED FLOORS LATER, AS NIGHT FALLS AT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING. .
AT LAST... NOW WE'LL TELL... FRED...

HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

GREAT FRED! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED IN THE CITY! CUGAT'S GONE COMPLETELY CRAZY!
I KNOW.
I HAVE SEEN.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO.

MEANWHILE, KILOMETERS AWAY, THE EX-MUTANTS HAVE SET CAMP FOR THE NIGHT.
I ALWAYS KNEW WHAT I'D LOOK LIKE -- JUST LIKE MY MOTHER.
I'D HAVE LONG RED HAIR, AND EMERALD GREEN EYES, AND...

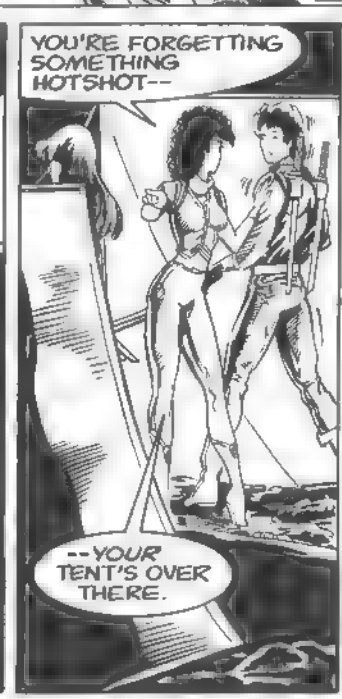
SO I WAS WRONG.
WELL, NOT EXACTLY.
YOU SEE, LORELEI, DOC HAD TO USE THE HEALTHIEST PART OF OUR GENETIC STRUCTURES IN THE REBUILDING PROCESS.
IN YOUR CASE, THE GENES PASSED ON BY PERHAPS A SINGLE DISTANT ANCESTOR SUFFERED THE LEAST DAMAGE.
WHAT I FIND MOST INTERESTING IS THAT YOU ALWAYS HAD THIS DEEP COMMITMENT TO BEING OR LOOKING HUMAN...
WAS IT THAT WAY FOR YOU?
NAH. I JUST WANTED TO BE ABLE TO RUN, JUMP, AND GET LAID!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT??
YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHY THERE ARE FOUR OF YOU AND ONLY ONE OF ME--?
WE'VE GOT TO REPOPULATE THE EARTH! WE'RE BREEDING STOCK!!
EXCUSE ME, FELLOW CATTLE. I HATE TO INTERRUPT--

BUT IT'S...UH... "FEEDING TIME!"
BOY, DID YOU GET LUCKY.

NO. I ALMOST GOT LUCKY!

ONE DINNER LATER...
WELL, DON'T ALL RUSH TO CONGRATULATE ME ON THAT MARVELOUS DINNER.
YAWN OH, IT WAS, ERIN! WE'RE JUST ALL PRETTY TIRED--

--I THINK WE'D BETTER TURN IN.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
NOW YOU'RE TALKING!


YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING HOTSHOT--
--YOUR TENT'S OVER THERE.

"BREEDING STOCK!" "GET LUCKY!"
I THINK HE'S KIND OF CUTE!

SOMETIMES LORELEI HAS ABOUT THE SENSE OF HUMOR OF A--
H'LO, BLU'--

--MIND IF I COME IN?
WHY... NO, VIKKI. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

WELL, BLU...

IF WE HAVE TO REPOPULATE THE ENTIRE WORLD...

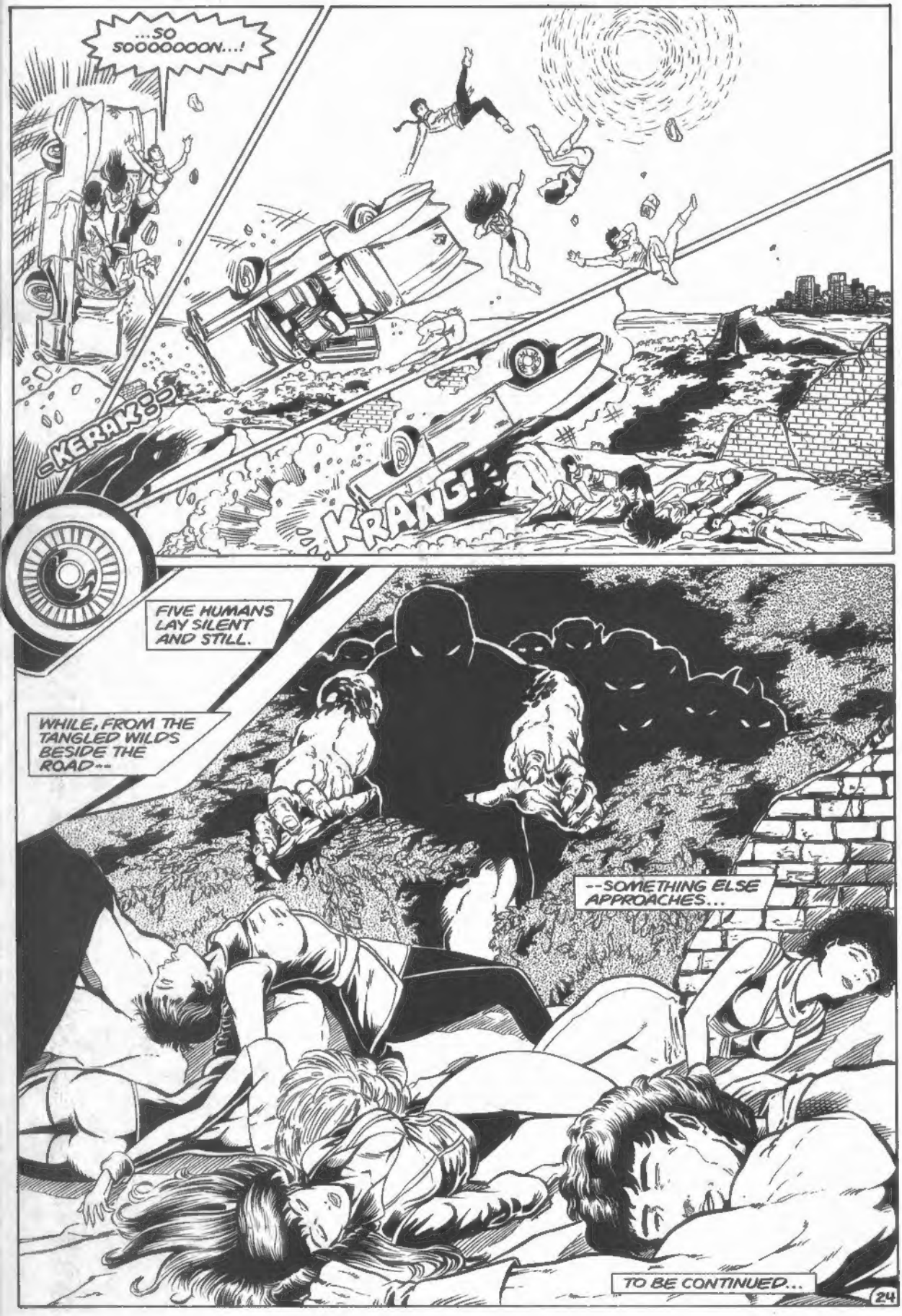
"--DON'T YOU THINK WE'D BETTER GET STARTED?"

VIKKI--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU YESTERDAY? YOU WERE MISSING HALF THE NIGHT.
OH--I JUST DECIDED TO SCOUT AROUND.

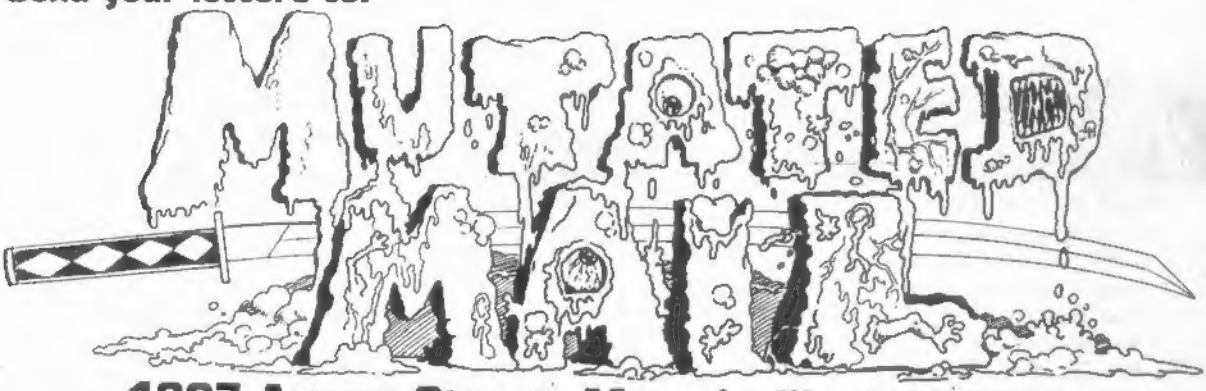
WELL-- DON'T DO IT AGAIN!

WHO KNOWS WHAT YOU MIGHT GET INTO!

I WONDER HOW FAST THIS THING GOES?
VRROOM!
'CAUSE TRAMPS LIKE US, BABY WE WERE BORN TO ♪ RUN... ♫
VOOOOMM!!
BELUSHI, YOU IDIOT! SLOW DOWN!
C'MON, LORELEI! QUIT BEING SO BOOOR-ING!
THAT'S A NEAT SONG, BLU. WHAT IS IT?
OH, THAT! IT'S AN OLD SONG I GOT OFF ONE OF DOC'S RECORDS BY--
BELUSHI!!
LOOK OUT!
SCREEEEEE
SIGH: I ALWAYS KNEW HE'D KILL US ALL SOMEDAY--I JUST DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD HAPPEN...
QUIK-STOP


...SO SOOOOOOON...!
KERAK
KRANG!
FIVE HUMANS LAY SILENT AND STILL.
WHILE, FROM THE TANGLED WILDS BESIDE THE ROAD--
--SOMETHING ELSE APPROACHES...
TO BE CONTINUED...

Send your letters to:



1207 Agnew Street, Moundsville, WV 26041

So this is **EX-MUTANTS #1.** We very nearly called it **YOUNG EX-MUTANT SAMURAI HUMANS,** until saner heads prevailed. Blame it on the market, I suppose.

It began as a joke. The Publisher and I were on a New York subway, discussing marketing trends. Black-and-white titles of bizarre characters — books with lonnnnnnng names — were breeding and proliferating all over the comics shop shelves. Only the Moral Majority [which, frankly, is *neither*] could have held them back.

"Maybe we ought to do something like those," I said, but admitted I'd rather see my name on a better product; most of the black-and-whites looked like fanzines, smelled like fanzines and, quite possibly, tasted like fanzines.

I'd prefer a solid, well-written, well-drawn, well-lettered comic book, be it color or black-and-white.

"Try this," said our Publisher, grinning broadly. "Y'see, in a post-holocaust world, radiation has killed off most of the populace. Those who survived were horrible, ugly mutations with three eyes or something.

"Anyway, a mutated scientist agonizes over what a mockery of humanity they have become. So, he selects five terrible mutants, performs experiments on them, and turns them into perfect specimens of humanity. It goes right according to plan. Almost.

"Because they are the only five humans in a world of mutants, they are outcasts. They are hated. Soon they are hunted. And, in order to survive, they must learn the ancient arts of the Samurai. They are...*Young Ex-Mutant Samurai Humans!*"

We both burst out laughing; no stares from the other subway riders — such publishing insanity must be commonplace there, where people always have cause to marvel.

As we zeroed in on some food several stops away, I began to wonder if, perhaps, we should make the jump — and actually produce and publish it! My mind was clicking away.

"I can see it now," I said. There'll be four gals and one guy — for proliferation of the species, as an allegory to the proliferation of these stupid comic book titles!"

My boss-to-be slugged me, although he remembers it differently.

The next morning, we were on the phone to two sources – *Campiti & Associates*, who produces more packages of comic books than any other source in the nation for various publishers, and to *TriCorp Enterprises, Inc.*, who handles licensing and separations and print brokering and all that sort of fun stuff.

We should have known.

David Campiti went off and contacted David Lawrence [with a first-issue "helping hand" from Anthony Pereira] to write, and two of his most dependable contract artists, Ron Lim and Mike Witherby, to draw. He wasn't thrilled with the name [or, we later learned, the "silly concept"] — but he set out to make it really WORK as a good comic book!

The $$$ we put into its development were worth it. The story was strong, built with lots of action and adventure, as well as plenty of heart. Ron Lim's Oriental-influenced art meshed well with one-time Marvel and Deluxe Comics inker Mike Witherby's skillful embellishing — you can see the results now. We love it!

And we think Ron Lim's women are...interesting, as well. It makes me glad that part of the idea was mine.

Frankly, when we saw the partial script and the sample pages, we were a little embarrassed with ourselves; the book was *too good* to anchor its potential with our silly-but-temporarily-commercial name. So the Publisher shortened it to EX-MUTANTS, and we've been enjoying each batch of pages as they come through.

We can't stress strongly enough how important a thoroughly professional product is, if we hope to garner the respectability a full-budgeted comic book company needs. That's why we're glad to have Bob Pinaha and Steve Oliff on board.

Robert Pinaha is one of the most dependable professional letterers in the business, tackling work at DC, Deluxe, Comico, Sirius, and elsewhere. The first sign of "fannishness" is poor lettering and, with this project handled by Campiti & Associates, they'd sooner refuse to do the book than let it fail on account of less-than-professional-level lettering. Enter: Bob!

And Steve Oliff needs no introduction, but we'll introduce him anyway. Steve is, perhaps, the finest process-colorist in the American comic book business — and he's tackled work for Marvel, Eclipse, Pacific, Sirius...and now us. We're proud, and glad, to have Steve at our helm, handling coloring for many of our covers.

That's right — "many." If you skipped the editorial on the inside front cover, go back and check it out; we've a full line of books on the way, in full-color as well as in black-and-white. And it all happened when our backers saw how well **EX-MUTANTS** was turning out!

David, Dave, Ron, Bob, Mike, and Steve — we thank you!

As to the subject of letters...as Kevin's editorial/publisher's column/whatever states, *we want mail!* Send it to the address above, and all the creators involved will get to read your words of wisdom.

Now: back to our regularly-scheduled comic book...

— William Davidson
Editor